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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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EAST GERMANY

Local Elections Produce Inevitable Result

To the surprise of no one, candidates of the National Front, (the East German party plus four puppet parties) won 99.91 percent of the valid votes cast on May 19 in the quadrennial elections to local councils and district assemblies. Voting participation was 98.27 percent, with 12,017,693 votes going to the front candidates and only 10,311 against them. Politburo member Friedrich Ebert, chairman of the election commission, hailed the results as an endorsement of the socialist state and socialism. In fact, it would have been difficult and risky to avoid voting, and there was only one slate of candidates. Nonetheless, the number of candidates was greater than the number of seats. The candidates receiving the least support are listed as "reserves."

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